



A 501c3 Non-Profit Animal Welfare Organization

P. O. Box 730, Charlotte, MI 48813

www.voiceless-mi.org

May 30, 2014

Representative Theresa Abed
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Abed,

We are writing you today to ask you to support HB 5095, legislation to protect dogs in large-scale breeding facilities in Michigan. This long overdue legislation would require large-scale dog breeders to register with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and follow the existing standards of care already in place for pet stores and shelters.

Many other Midwest states are passing similar legislation. If we do not have limits and standards in place we are leaving the door wide open to the commercial industry that has little regard for animal welfare. Poorly bred animals often have illnesses and genetic defects that families are burdened with.

In 2012, 350 dogs and puppies, many suffering from severe neglect, were removed from a Allegan County puppy mill. As one of the many rescues that stepped forward to help these dogs, we saw up close why this legislation needs to be enacted. As a group we spent thousands of dollars to get the 15 mill dogs we brought into our rescue back to health. The hours of man power alone spent on those 15 dogs was countless. Not just health issues, but we dealt with many temperament issues that were caused by lack of socialization with humans. As we speak, they are weeding out another mill dog situation in Livingston and Ingham county. Unless we act now, there will be more victims. And it isn't just the mill dogs that are victims. The families that purchase the dogs for high dollar amounts and then in turn end up with sickly and poorly bred dogs are victims as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Thoms
President
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